

Ascending The Mountain

Session 7: Slow To Anger

Intro Questions:

- How do you think our culture/campus views the anger of God?
- How do you think the Church today views the anger of God?
- Do you think there is a difference in God's anger from the Old to New testament?
- Have you ever felt like God is angry with you? Explain.

Scripture:

Read Exodus 34:6-7, saying "Yahweh" when you see "LORD" in all caps.

This week, we are talking about Yahweh being slow to anger. The Hebrew term for "slow to anger" literally means "to be long-nosed." When someone gets angry, their face gets scalding hot. In that imagery, if someone has a long nose, it would take longer for the tip of their nose to get hot. Therefore, they are "long-nosed;" it takes a while for their wrath to be fully reached.

The Four Displays Of God's Anger:

1. God's present-active wrath - God *steps in* now to end evil in its tracks. (Examples: Sodom and Gomorrah, Ananias and Sapphira)
2. God's present-passive wrath - God *allows* people to suffer the consequences of their actions (Examples: God allows Babylon to conquer Israel due to their rebellion.)
3. God's future-passive wrath - Death... God *allows* death to be a consequence of sin.
4. God's future-active wrath - God *steps in* to bring final judgment to the world, wiping away heaven and earth to create an impure, coexisting heaven and earth.

Read Hebrews 12:4-11

- How does this passage describe God's discipline?
- Who does this passage say is disciplined?
- How does this passage compare to the image of God being long-nosed?
- How can we sometimes confuse God's discipline for his anger? How have you done this personally?

Reflection:

- Who are some people in your life that represented being "slow to anger" well?
- Who are some people that represented this poorly in your life? (People who were quick to get angry with you, or disciplined out of anger)
- How do you feel like God looks at you and thinks of you when you do something wrong?
- How often do you feel like God is quick to become angry with you? (Example: when I sin I feel the need to hide myself from God and others, because I feel like he's angry or disappointed)

- How do you see God's anger in relation to your life now? What misconceptions might you have?
- How can we know if God is angry with us?
- Can a good Father get angry? What might that look like?

Read Exodus 34:6-7, saying "Yahweh" when you see "LORD" in all caps.

- Go into a time of imaginative prayer. There is no prompt. Just allow God to show you what He wants to show you.